August 16, 2023

Dear Santa Ana Council Members,

We have a situation that needs to be brought to the attention of our City Management and City Council.

Santa Ana has an historic tree at the main library that is the largest Ficus Drupace tree in North America.

Please look at the enclosed link that verifies and certified this is the largest Ficus Drupace in North America.

https://californiabigtrees.calpoly.edu/bt-tree-detail/548

Brian Sternberg, Executive Director of Library Services is rather new to Santa Ana and perhaps is not a long-time resident of Santa Ana that has the same passion for our historic trees as we do.

Nabil Saba, Executive Director of Public Works, who said Santa Ana Public Works will manage the project and cut down the tree, but they are definitely not the decision makers. The plan is to cut the tree down and replace with five parking spaces.

The outside firm that the library has chosen to design the renovations, perhaps looks at this old tree just as that "some old tree".

Please do not remove this landmark tree. It is shameful to remove this majestic and stately tree for 5 parking spaces. Live trees in a city provide life in spite of all the concrete around the library and it contributes to the historic value of our community.

Respectfully,

Christine Switzer
[redacted]